

Wm. C. Norton, who was twice married, first to Mary Stone, and one son, Oscar, was born to them. His second wife was Jessie, daughter of Albert R. Peck. They had two living sons, Albert and Elwin. Ridge Farm is located in Clinton and borders on the north shore of White Oak Lake (Pond). The residence and the farm buildings are on an elevation commanding an excellent view of the surrounding countryside. Will Norton devoted much time to raising purebred Berkshire swine, many of which he had pictures etched and framed. Some of the pictures still exist. He began the swine business in 1875 and for a number of years his drove captured all prizes at county and state fairs throughout the west. In 1892, he lost his whole drove to cholera. A later attempt to get back into the swine business ended by being wiped out again by cholera. He brought the first purebred Jersey cattle into Wayne County, and had a large herd of registered Jerseys at one time. After 1883, he devoted much of his time to his cattle. In 1888 he began breeding Hambletonian race horses. He bred a number of horses which made good track records. Hambletonian Prince stood at stud for some time at Ridge Farm. His stallion Goldseeker established a track record of 2:26 1/4.

Wm. C. Norton was born in Clinton in 1852 and was educated in the public schools and Delaware Institute at Franklin, N.Y. He was a fine judge of livestock and he was frequently called on to judge at state and county fairs. He served as one of the judges at the World's Fair, in Chicago, in 1893. He served in numerous public offices and as county treasurer; also was elected to the House of Representatives, where his record was an honorable one. Through a series of unfortunate business reverses, he lost Ridge Farm in 1911, and it was taken over by Wm. E. and Laura Curtis Rude. Will Norton's son Oscar and Elwin were veterinarians in Greenville, Miss., for many years. His son, Elwin, was married to Irene, daughter of George and Jeanette (Geuther) Curtis. To them were born Wm. Curtis Norton, Marjorie Louise, Elise Banning and Elwin Sheldon. Elwin Sheldon lost his life in the second World War, the shock leading to the early death of both his parents. Elise Banning Oleinik (Dr. John) is also deceased. Elwin's son Wm. C. also has a son Wm. C.

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